URBAN DISTRICT OF WINDERMERE.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ending December 31st. 1919.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District

Council of Windermere.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1919, compiled in accordance with your instructions and those of the Ministry of Health.

I resumed my duties on February 1st.1919, after four and half years of Military Service, during which time the County Medical Officer of Health supervised the work. I am very grateful to him, as this entailed a large increase of responsibility, and expenditure of time; his generosity was never failing.

My thanks are also due to you for the necessary permission to be absent, and I believe that the wide experience thus obtained will result in increased efficiency.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL.

Medical Officer of Health.

March 24th. 1920.

Windermere Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st.1910.

Area of District	(Land	1964 acres.
	(water	3500 acres.
	Total	5464 acres.
Population (census 1911)		5147
Population (Registrar General's estimation)		5389 for Birth Rate. 5173 for Death Rate.
Population (local estimation).		5767
Inhabited houses		1283.
Average population per house.		4·49

The Urban District of Windermere is one of the most beautifully situated spots in England, and comprises the two Districts of Windermere and Bowness, which practically merge into one another. Windermere being some 350 feet above ordnance datum, whilst Bowness rising from the level of Lake Windermere at about 150 feet gradually ascends to the higher ground on which Windermere is situated. The whole District is situated on the upper Silurian formation (Coniston Slate and Flags). The water derived from this source is pure and soft.

Windermere is a Pleasure and Health resort with large Hotels and Boarding Houses. There are few industries, the chief of which are :-

Cake and Sweetmeat Factory.
Iron Works.
Gas Works.
Electricity Works.
Building and Allied Trades.
Launches, Yacht and Boat Building.

None of these have any particular influence on Public Health.

Vital Statistics.

Legitimate.	Males 27 Females 13	40.
Illegitimate.	Males 0 Females 3	3

Annual Rate of Births per 1,000 of Population.	7.97
Annual Rate of Births for England and Wales.	18.5
The net deaths amounted to	61.
Annual Rate of Deaths per 1,000 of population.	11.79
Annual Rate of Deaths for England and Wales.	13.8
Excess of Deaths over Births.	18.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	4.
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants under 1 year of age.	0.
Infant Mortality per 1,000 births.	93.
Infant Mortality for England and Wales.	89..

The causes of Death are shown in the accompanying table :-

Table 1.

Influenza.	1.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	2.
Cancer.	9.
Meningitis.	2.
Organic Heart Disease.	4.
Bronchitis.	7.
Pneumonia.	2.
Other Respiratory Diseases.	1.
Congenital Debility, etc.	1.
Other Defined Diseases.	31.
Causes all-defined or unknown.	1.
Total	61.

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Infant Deaths.

The causes of death were due to :-

Premature Birth.	1 died at age of 6 days.
Meningitis.	1 died at age of 2 months.
Bronchitis.	1 died at age of 2 months.
Convulsions.	1 died at age of 10 months.
Total	4

There was one Still-birth notified.

The number of Births not notified was 1.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is indicated by the following facts:-

Average daily population in Institutions (Kendal Union) about 140.

Annual population receiving Outdoor Relief in Windermere 14.

The Westmorland County Hospital of 50 beds meets the greatest part of the needs of this district.

Sanitary Condition of the District.

WATER.

The orignal water supply was from a reservoir on the fells, to the North of Windermere, and whilst at ordinary times this was sufficient of late years there has been some scarcity. This was first felt in the dry Summer of 1910 & 1911, and was accentuated in 1918, when an additional source of supply was tapped at Ghyll Head, which supplied a portion of the lower end of the District of Bowness, but was not at a sufficient altitude to be of service to Windermere. In spite of this Windermere was nearly without water, but rain came just in time in the middle of July. In 1919 the water from the High Reservoir failed and but for the energetic action of the Council who tapped a new source at Calgarth and pumped it up to the higher levels, things would have been very bad. As it was, many of the houses were without water for 4 days, and distribution in limited quantities was made from carts. The

Surveyor is to be highly complemented on the way this water famine was relieved. The Water Company seemed to be powerless to do anything, and had to ask the assistance of the Council. As it was people were leaving Windermere and others going elsewhere who had intended to visit the place. For a District which has a world wide reputation as a centre for tourists and visitors, this was a very serious condition of affairs. The whole of the condition was laid before the Ministry of Health at the time, and it is to be hoped that through the Ministry pressure may be brought to bear upon the Water Company to supply a sufficiency for visitors as well as for the inhabitants. The supply is ordinarily on the constant system, but during the shortage it was considerably curtailed for some weeks.

The quality of the water is good, though as the reservoir emptied last year it deteriorated. It is soft but has no plumbosolvent action.

Rivers & Streams. There is very little pollution but the County Council Inspector has not drawn attention to any serious condition.

Drainage & Sewerage. There is a system of rain water drains, separate from the sewers, which discharges into streams. There are two sewage disposal works at present, one for the larger part of Windermere at Bessire, and the remainder is dealt with at Braithwaite Fold: these have not been quite adequate and a new scheme of settling tanks and bacterial filters was inaugurated in 1914, but the war stopped completion. This is situated at Tower Wood, 4½ miles South of Bowness, and is complete except for filtering media. As soon as this is obtained an excellent system will be inaugurated and will be sufficient to meet all demands.

Closet Accommodation. There are approximately 2,594 closets in the District as follows :-

Water closets.	2,464.
Automatically flushed.	17.
Wash water-closets.	14.
Privies.	83.
Pail closets.	16.

The privies and pail closets are for the most part at outlying dwelling houses and farms outside the sewerage area.

There have been no recent conversions.

Scavenging. This is undertaken by the Authority, by their own team labour or let by contract. It is efficient and the refuse is disposed on two tips, one for Windermere and one for Bowness, and is free from nuisance. Disinfecting powder is utilised after clearance.

The number of ashpits is 200 and of ashtins 225.

There have been 8 recent conversions.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

There have been 535 visits of inspection made, and a list of nuisances discovered is tabulated in the Inspector's Report which is appended. There were no statutory Notices served, but 39 Informal Notices. The Nuisances were abated.

Premises & Occupations controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

Slaughter Houses.	2.
Cowsheds & Dairies.	12.
Total.	14

There are no offensive trades, nor any underground sleeping rooms. Rag, Flock Act 1911. No Rag, Flock is in use in the District.

Schools. The sanitary conditions of the schools is good, and sufficient and suitable conveniences on the water carriage system are provided. The water supply is good, being derived from the public mains.

There were no school closures.

The outbreak of any epidemic is investigated in conjunction with the School Medical Authorities.

Food.

Milk Supply. The supply is good in quantity and wholesome in character, and the arrangements for distribution are satisfactory,

No tuberculosis milk was discovered.

The Milk and Cream Regulations are under the control of the Police, as also the sale of Food and Drugs Act. No prosecutions have been necessary in connection with them.

Milk (Mothers' & Childrens') Order 1918. Is administered by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Other Foods. There has been no unsound food discovered. The sanitary condition of premises where food is prepared, stored, or exposed for sale has been good, and no action was required to be taken in respect of them.

Bakehouses & Slaughter houses have been well kept.

No meat has been condemned for Tuberculosis or other disease.

There is free access to all Slaughter Houses and notification is made immediately by Butchers where any diseased carcase is found.

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious Disease.

An epidemic of Influenza appeared in the Spring, but the type of the disease was much milder than that of the previous Autumn; there was one death from this cause.

Measles were notified every month from April to November, and was epidemic in July and August. They were of a mild type and no deaths resulted.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is kept at the Borough Police Station, Kendal, where it can be obtained at any hour of the day or night. Its use is general.

There were no "Return Cases" of Infectious Disease.

There were no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica.

The two cases of Malaria notified contracted the disease on service abroad.

Tuberculosis. There were 4 cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs notified and 1 of Other Forms; two deaths were attributable to the Pulmonary Form.

Notification by Medical Practitioners has been efficient.

School intimations of Infectious Disease has been largely utilized as also have bacteriological aids in suitable cases.

The Tuberculosis work and that of Venereal Diseases is in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

No Primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

There have been no cases of locally contracted Anthrax or Rabies.

Table of Notified Infectious Disease.

	Cases.	Removed to Hospital.
Measles.	218	-
Scarlet Fever.	2	2
Diphtheria.	2	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	4	1
Tuberculosis (Other Forms)	1	-
Pneumonia (Primary)	1	-
Malaria.	2	-
Total	230	4

Annual Death Rate per 1,000 of Population.

Phthisis. 0.38

Maternity & Child Welfare.

This work is under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Administration.

1. Staff. There is one Sanitary Inspector who also acts as Surveyor assisted by a Clerk.

2. Hospital Accommodation. An excellent little hospital of 20 beds is available for isolation of infectious disease; it is situated at Lickbarrow, and is well equipped in every respect; the administration is good. There is no local hospital for Small-pox, but such accommodation is provided at the Kendal Small-pox Hospital, when required.

3. Local Acts, Etc. The following are in operation:-

Sanitary Clauses of Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.

Sanitary Clauses of Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act. 1890.

Bye-Laws for :-

Private Scavenging.

Prevention of Nuisance.

New Streets and Buildings.

Cemeteries.

Open Spaces and Pleasure Grounds.

Hackney Carriages.

Omnibuses.

Pleasure Boats and Vessels.

Regulations under Section 13 Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order 1895.

Regulations under Merchant Shipping Act 1894.

The administration of these is effectively carried out.

4. Laboratories. The Combined Districts of Westmorland have established local Laboratories at Kendal, for Chemical and Bacteriological examinations, and these have been in operation since August.

Prior to that date, examinations were made by the Public Health Laboratories at Manchester.

The Laboratories are under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. They are proving of great service and are being utilized more and more.

Examinations for Windermere made during the latter five months of the year numbered 6.

Most of the examinations are for Diphtheria and water, and a few for Tubercle bacilli. The examination for this latter is generally done at the Westmorland Consumption Sanatorium, but where an immediate result is desired it is done locally.

Housing.

General Housing Conditions.

Number of Houses	1283
Working Class houses.	650
New houses for Working Classes erected) or in course of erection)	Nil
Population (estimated)	5767

There were no important changes during the year, nor are any anticipated.

Extent of shortage of houses. 63

A scheme for building 60 houses by the Council has already been submitted.

Overcrowding. There is a certain amount of overcrowding, but not of a serious character. It is partly due to the marriages of Soldier Sons who are unable to find separate housing andto the letting of lodgings.

No measures can be taken to overcome this till more houses are built.

No special cases were dealt with during the year.

Fitness of Houses.

The General standard of housing is good. The chief defects are, dampness, defective sanitary arrangements and some dilapidations.

All action taken has been under the Public Health Acts, and is detailed under the first paragraph of the Inspector's Report which is appended.

There were no special difficulties encountered in remedying defects. Closet accommodation abd refuse disposal are efficient,but the water supply presents difficulties in a dry season.

Unhealthy Areas.

There are no extensive areas that can be included under this heading, and no action has been taken nor any complaints made during the year.

Bye-Laws.

The existing Bye-Laws are efficiently carried out: there is no need for additional ones or the revision of the present ones.

General.

No action has been taken with the exception of remedying minor defects.

Appendices.

I. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made by Householders that they were unfit for human habitation.	Nil.
II. Number of dwelling houses inspected under Sec.17 Housing Act 1909.	Nil.
Number of dwelling houses condemned as unfit for human habitation.	3
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied without the making of a Closing Order.	3
III. Action under Sec. 28 Housing Act	Nil
IV. Number of representations made to Authority for the making of Closing Orders. Number of Closing Orders made Number of Closing Orders determined on houses being made fit	Nil.
V. Number of demolition Orders made. Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.	Nil.
VI. Number of houses demolished voluntarily.	Nil.
VII. Number of representations made regarding obstructive buildings. Number of buildings demolished Number of representations under consideration	Nil.

VIII. Satff. There is one Surveyor, who is also Sanitary Inspector, he has the necessary clerical assistance.

Appended is the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Summary Return to the Medical Officer of Health of work done during 1919.

NUISANCE REMOVAL.

12. Drains, defective or choked :- Ellerey, Brantholme, 29,31,33,35 & 37 Crescent Road, 17 & 33 Church Street, Biskey Howe Road (two houses), Dellside, 20 & 22 Limethwaite Road, Bank House, The Cottage, 5-11 High Street, 27 Broad Street, Station Lavatories Bowness Bay

3. Sewers, defective or choked :- Braithwaite Fold.(3).

1. Cesspool, defective :- Stybarrow.

5. Cesspools, emptied :- Meregarth, The Rectory 2, The Abbey 2.

3. Intercepting traps choked :- No.4 Helk Terrace, Bleak House, Park View.

1. Soilpipes,defective :- The Cottage (Bowness).

1. Slopstone, defective :- 6.Salisbury Place.

2. Fresh Air Inlets, defective :- Brantholme 2.

3. Water Closets, defective or choked :- 20 & 22 Limethwaite Road, New Hall Inn Cottage.

29. Ashpits and Bins, defective or insufficient :- Woodlans Cottage, Shirley, Bleak House, 10.Main Road. Woodside, Park Road (Atkinson's), Thornthwaite Road, (Scott's), Bowness Bank (Adamson's), 8 & 10 Victoria Street, Biskey Howe Terrace (Evans's, Shelton's, Dickinson's, Gill's, Barker's & Holme's), Kendal Road (Troughton's), Crag Brow (Crosthwaite's), Craig Park Terrace (Smith's), West End House, 18 & 20 South Terrace, Craig Walk (Dunn's & Bispham's) 1.Longlands, Belsfield Ter. (Hodgsons), Langrigg Cottages (Bland's Goodhind's & Fawcett's).

7. Ventilation of rooms, insufficient :- New Hall Inn Cottages, Bowness Bank Cottages (Boynton's).

3. Accumulation of manure &c. :- Victoria Street, 22.Main Road, 1.Lake View Villas.

2. Damp Premises :- New Hall Inn Cottages, No.2 College Road.

1. Rainpipes defective :- New Hall Inn Cottages.

3. Smells, complaint of :- Rayrigg Hall (From Beemire Sewage Works), The Cottage,Bowness (drains not disconnected from Sewer,not jointed and not ventilated), Burnside Private Hotel (Effluent from Cesspool).

DRAINAGE.

4. New Drains :- Waterbeck Lodge, Wynlass Beck, Cottage & Garage, Rayrigg Estate (Miss Almond's), Rayrigg Estate (Mr. Nash's).

12. Alterations and Additions to Old drains :- Woodlands, Garage off Victoria Street, 4. High Street, Oakland's, Oldfield Cottage, Dorndhon, Highfield, 7 & 9 Oak St., Birthwaite Edge, 19 & 21 Cross Street, Oldfield Cake Works, 17-23 Church Street.

HOUSE REFUSE.

The Collection and removal of house refuse in the Bowness Ward was carried out very satisfactorily by the Council's own horse and cart. The collection and removal in the Windermere Ward was let by Contract.
The total amount of refuse collected amounted to 2,637 cart loads, of which total 1,683 loads came from the Windermere Ward and 959 loads from the Bowness Ward.
The main portion (490 loads) of the Bowness Ward refuse was disposed of in the old Braithwaite Fold sand pit, 381 loads were tipped on the low lying ground at Bowness Bay and were immediately covered with soil and turf. The remainder (88 loads) was tipped to fill up the depression at the lavatory site at the foot of New Road.
The refuse from the Windermere Ward was for the main part (1467 loads) tipped on the Rayrigg Estate to fill up depressions. The remainder (216 loads) was tipped at the lavatory site at the foot of New Road.
The tips were in all cases, covered by workmen in the Council's employ and all necessary precautions were taken to prevent nuisances at open end of tips.
It has been arranged that all house refuse shall be removed once a week from pits as well as from bins.
In connection with this work 39 letters and informal notices were written.

WATER CLOSETS AND PRIVIES.

There are approximately 2,594 closets in the district, divided as follows :-

2,464 water-closets.
17 automatically flushed latrines.
14 waste water-closets.
83 privies.
16 pail closets.

Part 111 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, is in force within the District, but it has not been found necessary to take any action under that Act towards the conversion of privies to the water carriage system, as most of the privies and pail closets are at out-lying dwelling houses and farms.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES.

The income from the Public Lavatories amounted to £39.7.9. viz.:- Bowness Bay £36. 7. 3. and the Pinfold £3. 0. 6. The above figure indicate very clearly the urgent necessity for lavatories in a holiday resort such as Windermere, but the need is only partly met by the existing buildings; but will be more suitably met by the erection of the proposed new lavatories at the foot of the New Road.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

During the latter years of the War the works on the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme were stopped owing to the great shortage of labour, but these works are again in progress and are expected to be in use by August 1920.

WATER SUPPLY.

The catchment area of The Windermere and District Gas and Water Company's waterworks is among the Upper Silurian formation (Coniston Slates and Flags) on the high fells to the North of Windermere. The water is therefore pure and soft. Until recent years the supply has been abundant and constant. The growth of the District and the exceptional dryness of the summers of 1910 and 1911 forced the Company to obtain power of Parliament to construct an additional storage reservoir. This they obtained in 1912 but did not construct
The soft moorland water has a very pronounced corrosive action on iron mains and service pipes, so that their carrying capacity becomes in time considerably reduced. During the drought in August last, The Windermere and District Gas and Water Company's Reservoir supply at Dubbs Road dried up. The Council obtained an intermittent supply by pumping water from a spring at Calgarth. This water was of a very good sample and was pumped up through the Council's new rising main to Cook's House, where it was connected to the Water Company's main. They have now a supplementary supply from Ghyll Head Reservoir.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 19 cowkeepers and dairymen on the present register, but two of these supply neighbours only. Four of the cowsheds are outside the district, and one dairyman obtains his supply from outside, leaving 12 cowsheds and dairies inside the district

SLAUGHTER HOUSES and the INSPECTION of MEAT.

There are two Slaughter houses in the district. They are licenced from year to year and are visited at times of slaughtering. They are invariably kept clean and in good repair.

SCHOOLS:-

The Schools are all supplied with water from the town's mains and are provided with sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences on the water carriage system. The general sanitary conditions are good.

RATS ORDER 1918.

Under the above Order a total of 599 Rats Tails have been brought in, mainly by school boys and girls.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION.

Two cases of scarlet fever, two cases of diphtheria, three cases of tuberculosis, two cases of malaria and 185 cases of measles were notified.
Three cases were treated in the hospital, viz.:- Two cases scarlet fever and one case diphtheria. Six rooms, passages and staircases were disinfected and five loads of bedding were sterilized in the steam disinfector.. Certified trained hospital nurses are obtained for all cases treated in the hospital. The premises are in charge of male and female caretakers. The arrangements have given great satisfaction.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Plans of 4 new houses, 3 alterations and additions to old houses, conversion of 3 buildings into 4 houses and one garage, 5 additions to factories, 2 motor spirit stores, 2 garages and 2 temporary buildings have been approved.
The Council estimate that the shortage of houses in this district amounts to 60 and have passed a resolution to build that number. Mr.T.H.Lawson has been appointed Consultant to the Council and several schemes are being prepared for sites and layout.
The district is essentially a residential area abounding in large mansions and summer residences. Most of the smaller dwelling-houses and cottages are modern and well built. During the short holiday season many of the occupiers of this better-class of cottage property let apartments furnished, and so make the rent.
There are approximately 1,283 houses, of which number 650 are let at rents exceeding £16. per annum.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Two notices were served under the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, Section 5, to do certain works required.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register.

Workshop bakehouses	18
Blacksmiths	4
Boatbuilders	5
Bootmakers & Cloggers	9
Masons' Sheds	5
Coachbuilders	2
Dressmaking & Millinery	17
Joiners & Cabinet makers	6
Plumbers and Painters	8
Saddlers	2
Tailors	5
Weavers	2
Laundries	7
Photo Works	1
Motor & Cycle repairing shops	6
Sugar boiler	1
Hydroaeroplane workshop	1
	99

OTHER MATTERS.

Underground bakehouses..... 2.

[redacted]

CHARLES D. HINES,

Inspector of Nuisances.